

**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, December 8,  
1801, from Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe  
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.  
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson**

Richmond, Decr. 8, 1801.

Dear Sir

I shod. have answer'd yours of the 24 ult. as soon as I recd. it, had I not perceived it was your wish that your communication on the subject shod. form no part of my publick letter to the legislature. Being at the time engaged in writing that letter I delayed an answer till it was finished. It is not possible to entertain a doubt of the propriety of any part of yr. letter, the last parag. excepted: nor am I satisfied that there is the slightest objection to that or any part of it. Still I suggest a doubt as to a possible effect it may have. You hint the propriety of leaving the power of designating the place to the chief magistrate in concert with the President of the U.S. May not this excite jealousy and suspicion with some holding slaves? The idea perhaps did not occur and perhaps is undeserving attention. You will think of it, and if you think it has any weight modify it otherwise. Inclining to think it does not I retain the letter, presuming if you think it does you have the means in a copy of correcting it. The term "him" might be changed to "it" without altering the import, &

wod. be grateful to the council, in which you have friends. I will not send the communication in till I hear from you, provided it be, in time to avoid censure, which I presume will give you full time to answer me. I write in great haste there being several gentlemen with me. Sincerely yr. friend & servt. Jas. Monroe

## Library of Congress

RC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress). Jefferson executed some of these changes in the press copy of the letter shown here, by crossing out line 9 of the last page and inserting “them” and “they.”